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**BusinessJournal**

20:05 EST Wednesday

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## Honda seeks 'day of remembrance' for internees

U.S. Rep. Mike Honda (D-San Jose) is sponsoring a resolution setting aside February 19 as an annual "Day of Remembrance" for the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1942.

The order authorized incarceration of more than 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry who were living in the U.S. during World War II. Americans of Italian and German descent also faced severe restrictions by measures that branded them enemy aliens and included required identification cards, travel restrictions, seizure of personal property, and internment.

As a child, Rep. Honda was interned in Colorado.

"Executive Order 9066 is nothing to be proud of," Mr. Honda says. "Today, our country is again in a time of war. It is important for us all to realize that gross violations of civil liberties and disregard for constitutional rights are always possible if we are not vigilant."

The former San Jose mayor says the need for raising the awareness of what he calls "this shameful chapter in U.S. history" is more apparent than ever, responding to reports that Rep. Howard Coble, a Republican congressman from Greensboro, N.C., agreed with the internment of Japanese Americans.

Mr. Coble was recently appointed chairman of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security.

"We were at war. They (Japanese-Americans) were an endangered species. For many of these Japanese-Americans, it wasn't safe for them to be on the street," Mr. Coble said during a talk show Tuesday on WKZL, a Winston-Salem, N.C., radio station, according to the High Point, N.C., Enterprise newspaper.

He was reacting to a comment of a caller who suggested Arabs in the United States should be confined, the newspaper says.

"Some probably were intent on doing harm to us, just as some of these Arab-Americans are probably intent on doing harm to us," the newspaper reported Mr. Coble said.

Mr. Honda dismissed the remarks as preposterous. "If we were incarcerated for our safety, why were we inside the barbed wire fences, and why were the gun towers facing us?" he says.

February 19 should be neither a day to celebrate, nor a day to mourn, Mr. Honda says. "Rather, it is a day for

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02/06/2003

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